



## Transitioning into Youth

This is a journey, not a one off event.

Transitions always involve a move out of our comfort zone - feelings of worry, fear or apprehension are normal.

*"Three things amaze me, no, four things I'll never understand*

- how an eagle flies so high in the sky,*
- how a snake glides over a rock,*
- how a ship navigates the ocean,*
- why adolescents act the way they do"*

Proverbs 30:18, 19 The Message.

*"Teenagers do not leave the church, the church and teens were never introduced"*

John Roberto



## You're still important

"Home is where the heart is"

"That cliché is a great descriptor of the way a little child's life revolves around family and home. Then the teenage years arrive and something begins to change. As they are now growing up, teenagers begin the process of disengaging from the kind of ties they've had with you as they begin to focus more and more time on building relationships with their peers. Even though the shift is normal, it can be quite painful to watch your children trade family time for friend time. These new relationships serve as a bridge between the dependence of childhood and the independence of adulthood. But never, never, never forget this fact - you are still vital! Research and observation show that we must remain engaged and available to our children. You are important and significant in their lives"

Walt Mueller - '99 thoughts for Parents of Teenagers'

How can you as a parent help this transition?

Do your research - find out yourself what's happening at church.

Remember you are a role model

Help your kids to invite their friends.

Be a driver and a host.

Help your child to find their place in the wider church.

Find significant others and mentors.

Help make it possible for your child to be at Wednesday night or at camps.

Serve together.

Share your own faith story or youth group ones.

Listen to their doubts and questions.

Meet their peers.

Be a praying parent.



## Link between church and home



Research confirms that what happens at home is 2-3 times more influential than what happens at church and parents are the greatest influencer in leading teens to faith.

*"There are two powerful influences on the planet, the church and the home. Both exist because God initiated them. If they work together they can potentially make a greater impact than if they work alone."* Reggie Joiner

Your son/daughter is at a place where what they have heard has to be solidified in their hearts. It is important during the teenage years to help them clarify their spiritual priorities as they step into the next chapter of their lives. This is a critical window of time where home and church need to work together very closely so that your teenager can experience what it means to be the church and to be a Christ follower.